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CIA MANUAL

BY ROBERT G. FICHENBERG

WASHINGTON - FORMER CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER SAYS THE AUTHOR OF A CONTROVERSIAL CIA-SPONSORED MANUAL ON TERRORIST TACTICS IN NICARAGUA PROBABLY IS ONE OF A GROWING NUMBER OF FORMER AGENTS WHO WERE EASED OUT OF THE CIA IN 1977 AND HAVE BEEN REHIRED ON A CONTRACT BASIS FOR SPECIAL MISSIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE MANUAL FOR REBELS FIGHTING THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT IN NICARAGUA OUTLINES VARIOUS ACTIONS - INCLUDING ASSASSINATIONS - THAT COULD BE USED BY GUERRILLAS.

PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HIS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER, ROBERT MACFARLANE, HAVE SAID THE ISSUANCE OF THE MANUAL IS UNDER INVESTIGATION. MACFARLANE SAID WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCING THE MANUAL "SHOULD BE FIRED."

TURNER, WHO HEADED THE CIA IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, SAYS THE MANUAL SOUNDS LIKE THE WORK OF ONE OF THE CIA AGENTS HE ORDERED TO TAKE EARLY RETIREMENT OR FIRED IN 1977 FOR UNACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE.

"THESE WERE PRINCIPALLY THE 'OLD BOYS' OF THE AGENCY, WHO EITHER DIDN'T REALIZE OR DIDN'T WANT TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THE RULES OF THE GAME HAD CHANGED, AND THAT THE NEW POLICY, UNDER THE LAW, WAS 'NO ASSASSINATIONS' AND COMPREHENSIVE OVERSIGHT BY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES," HE TOLD REPORTERS MONDAY.

TURNER SAID THAT WHAT HAD BEEN TERMED BY HIS CRITICS AT THE TIME AS TURNER'S "PURGE" OF THE CIA ACTUALLY RESULTED FROM RECOMMENDATIONS IN AN INTERNAL CIA MEMORANDUM THAT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO HIS PREDECESSOR, GEORGE BUSH, NOW THE VICE PRESIDENT. THE HOUSECLEANING WAS AWAITING BUSH'S ACTION WHEN CARTER NAMED TURNER TO SUCCEED BUSH.

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THE MEMORANDUM; ACCORDING TO TURNER; NOTED THAT THE CIA HAD BECOME BLOATED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR AND THAT WITH THE WAR OVER THE AGENCY WAS "OVERSTAFFED BY 1,300; OVERSUPERVISED AND OVERMANAGED; WITH FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT FOR THE YOUNGER PERSONNEL; WITH THE RESULT THAT MORALE WAS LOW. THE RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT TOTAL PERSONNEL BE REDUCED BY 5 PERCENT; BY A VARIETY OF MEANS."

TURNER SAID HE DECIDED TO ELIMINATE 820 POSITIONS IMMEDIATELY - 17 BY DISMISSALS; 155 BY EARLY RETIREMENT AND THE REST THROUGH NORMAL ATTRITION. THOSE DISMISSED OR GIVEN EARLY RETIREMENT; HE SAID; WERE RELEASED ON THE BASIS OF INFERIOR PERFORMANCE.

MANY OF THOSE RELEASED DURING THIS PERIOD; TURNER SAID; HAD RESISTED THE SHARP CHANGE IN CONTROL OF THE CIA THAT RESULTED FROM THE 1975 REPORT OF A SENATE COMMITTEE; WHICH CHARGED THAT THE CIA WAS GUILTY OF MANY ILLEGAL EXCESSES AND WHICH URGED STRICTER OVERSIGHT OF THE AGENCY BY CONGRESS.

"THE UNSUPERVISED INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM THAT EXISTED FROM 1948 TO 1975 WAS NOT A SUCCESS;" TURNER SAID; "BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ACCOUNTABILITY AND WHEN YOU HAVE NO ACCOUNTABILITY AND NO LIMITS; YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE EXCESSES LIKE COVERT ACTIONS THAT GO FAR BEYOND ANYTHING THIS NATION STANDS FOR. YOU CAN'T HAVE ANY AGENCY FLOUTING THE WILL OF CONGRESS; AND THIS IS WHAT HAD BEEN HAPPENING."

TURNER; A RETIRED ADMIRAL; SAID THAT WHILE HE DOES NOT AGREE WITH CIA CRITICS WHO CONTEND THE AGENCY "IS OUT OF CONTROL;" HE IS "AFRAID THAT I DO BELIEVE THAT IT HAS BECOME POLITICIZED" UNDER CURRENT DIRECTOR WILLIAM J. CASEY.

TURNER POINTED TO THE RECENT RESIGNATIONS OF TWO TOP CIA ANALYSTS WHO SAID THEY HAD QUIT BECAUSE CASEY WANTED THEIR REPORTS TO BE ALTERED FOR POLITICAL REASONS.